

STATE OF CALIFORNIA SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY - RECOMMENDATION

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: CENTRAL **County:** PLACER

Applicant: ALPINE SPRINGS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT

Project Title: ALPINE MEADOWS CONSOLIDATED DEFENSIBLE SPACE PROJECT

Application Number: SNC 070208

PROJECT SCOPE

The Alpine Meadows Consolidated Defensible Space Project will reduce forest fuel loadings in the Alpine Meadows area along Bear Creek in Placer County. Components critical to a successful project include:

- Reduction and removal of forest fuels using hand crews, chipping, and pile burning on 50 acres immediately adjacent to Bear Creek;
- Designation of a section of the project area as a demonstration plot for studying impacts of pile burning on riparian areas;
- Providing residential chipping services and defensible space inspections to 200 private residents to encourage defensible space clearing around private homes.

Fuel load reduction in the Alpine Meadows area will help to protect sub-alpine watershed values, including extensive riparian habitat, as well as residential and recreational areas.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend funding at the full amount requested of \$176,375. Project will contribute to defensible space education, fire risk reduction near a waterway, and protection of up to 200 residences in the Alpine Meadows community.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council
Alpine Meadows Estates Association
Juniper Mountain Association

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Environmental documentation and archaeological survey	July – September 2008
Progress report	December 2008
Defensible space inspections and chipping and fuels treatment	June – September 2009
Progress report	September 2009
Mitigation and monitoring for pile burning	October – December

	2009
FINAL REPORT	February 2010

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Fuels treatment	\$125,000
Chipping program	\$5,000
Defensible space inspections	\$5,000
Mitigation and monitoring for pile burning	\$12,500
Project management/environmental documentation/archaeological survey	\$20,000
Direct admin expenses	\$8,875
GRAND TOTAL	\$176,375

1. Project Name

Alpine Meadows Consolidated Defensible Space Project

2. Project Summary

The project being proposed by Alpine Springs County Water District (ASCWD) is to reduce dangerous forest fuel loadings on 50 acres in the Alpine Meadows area and to offer free residential chipping services and defensible space inspections to 200 private properties. Alpine Meadows is a popular ski resort and summer recreational area that also holds over 650 private residences.

Alpine Meadows is located just northwest of Lake Tahoe, along California State Highway 89, just outside of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Alpine Meadows area contains about 770 private parcels, interspersed among a few open space parcels. Bear Creek runs through the community, creating a riparian area near many of the homes. Most homes are situated along the creek or other riparian areas. The elevation of Alpine Meadows ranges from 6185 feet at the mouth of the canyon to 6835 feet at the ski area lodge and the top of the inhabited area. The private lands are surrounded by United States Forest Service (USFS) owned lands. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District provides fire and emergency services to the approximately 1 square mile of Placer County area.

This project consists of two important elements. The first element of this project is the reduction of overgrown forest fuels on common properties owned by three homeowners associations and the water district that intertwine between private homes along the valley. These areas are identified in a Community Wildfire Protection Plan completed in 2005. The fuels reduction projects will consist of using hand crews but the disposal of the material will be completed using multiple methods including pile burning and chipping.

Each area's logistics will dictate how vegetation is removed. Some areas will include chipping, and some will include pile burning. Of these pile burn areas, one is within a riparian area and we plan to use this area as a demonstration project on how to conduct pile burning without negative impacts to the stream environment. We will be working with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) to create a work plan for this area. The project area includes lands owned by multiple organizations, including the Alpine Springs County Water Company, Bear Creek Association, and Juniper Mountain Association, Alpine Meadows Estates Association.

The second element of this project is funding a community chipping program. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District has offered a chipping program to the residents of the district for many years. This program runs entirely on grant funding and has established itself as an integral part of private resident's efforts to create and maintain defensible space on their properties. 2007 has surpassed all other years as the most productive on record for this program. The North Tahoe Fire Protection District extends its chipping services to Alpine Meadows. This program seeks funding to support this effort in Alpine Meadows and will be used to complement the efforts on the common properties, open space, of the Associations and Water District. Our goal is that the combined efforts of the common area treatments, coupled with public education efforts of the Alpine Meadows Fire Safe Council and the free chipping services, dumpsters and inspections for homeowners will serve to inspire more defensible space treatments on